the motion vector data, and an image in the target frame. The transmitting device then outputs the motion vector data and the difference data to a receiving device. The receiving device reproduces the image in the target frame from the received motion vector data and difference data.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 and ADD new claims 14-22 in accordance with the following:

5. (Once Amended) A motion vector encoding device for encoding motion vectors of respective blocks obtained by partitioning each frame of moving image data, comprising:

predicting means for predicting a motion vector of a target block based on motion vectors of a plurality of blocks adjacent to the target block;

determining means for determining accuracy of a prediction made by said predicting means based on degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors; and

encoding means for encoding the motion vector of the target block using a result of the prediction made by said predicting means with an encoding method determined based on a result of a determination made by said determining means, and wherein:

said predicting means comprises first and second predicting means for respectively predicting first and second components of the motion vector of the target block;

said determining means comprises

first determining means for determining the accuracy of the prediction made by said first predicting means based on degrees of non-uniformity of respective first components of the plurality of motion vectors, and

second determining means for determining the accuracy of the prediction made by said second predicting means based on degrees of non-uniformity of respective second components of the plurality of motion vectors, a first component of the motion vector of the target block, and the respective first components of the plurality of motion vectors; and

said encoding means comprises

first encoding means for encoding the first component of the motion vector of the target block by using a result of a prediction made by said first predicting means with an encoding method determined based on a result of a determination made by said first determining means, and

second encoding means for encoding the second component of the motion vector of the target block by using a result of a prediction made by said second predicting means with an encoding method determined based on a result of a determination made by said second determining means.

Please ADD the following claims:

14. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 11, wherein said determining means determines the accuracy of the prediction made by said predicting means based on the degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors which have already been decoded in an area adjacent to the target block.

15. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 12, wherein said determining means determines the accuracy of the prediction made by said predicting means based on the degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors which have already been decoded in an area adjacent to the target block.

16. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 13, wherein said determining means determines the accuracy of the prediction made by said predicting means based on the degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors which have already been decoded in an area adjacent to the target block.

17. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 11, wherein said encoding means comprises:

a plurality of individual decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block with unique decoding methods; and

selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of individual decoding means based on the result of the determination made by said determining means, and for outputting a result of decoding performed by the selected individual decoding means.

18. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 12, wherein said encoding means comprises:

a plurality of individual decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block

with unique decoding methods; and

selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of individual decoding means based on the result of the determination made by said determining means, and for outputting a result of decoding performed by the selected individual decoding means.

19. (New) The motion vector decoding device according to claim 13, wherein said encoding means comprises:

a plurality of individual decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block with unique decoding methods; and

selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of individual decoding means based on the result of the determination made by said determining means, and for outputting a result of decoding performed by the selected individual decoding means.

20. (New) A motion vector decoding device for decoding an output of a motion vector encoding device which predicts a motion vector of a target block based on motion vectors of a plurality of blocks adjacent to the target block, determines accuracy of a prediction based on a plurality of motion vectors which have already been encoded in an area adjacent to the target block, and encodes the motion vector of the target block by using a result of the prediction with an encoding method determined based on a result of a determination of the accuracy of the prediction, in order to encode motion vectors of respective blocks obtained by partitioning each frame of moving image data, comprising:

predicting means for predicting the motion vector of the target block based on the plurality of motion vectors used to make the determination within the motion vector encoding device;

determining means for determining accuracy of a prediction made by said predicting means based on the degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors; and

decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block by using a result of the prediction made by said predicting means with a decoding method determined based on a result of a determination made by said determining means.

21. (New) A motion vector decoding device for decoding an encoding result which is